

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Initially, the specification has been amended to clarify an inadvertent mistake. Specifically, on page 9, lines 10-14, the specification was amended to recite that in the configuration of the LCD device of the present invention, the coupling lines 18A and 18B connect the common lines 16 together and the terminals 24A and 24B of the common lines, not the scanning lines. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification; specifically, in Fig. 2 and on page 9, line 23 – page 10, line 3. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the disclosure by way of the amendment to the specification.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 07036061A to Aoki et al. (hereinafter “Aoki”). In response, claim 1 has been amended to clarify its distinguishing features.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a plurality of common lines to extend in the row direction parallel to the scanning lines, where the scanning lines and the common lines are formed in a single layer, a coupling line formed in the single layer, where the coupling line connects the common lines, and where the coupling line and the common lines are connected and overlie on a same plane. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification; specifically, in Fig. 2, and on page 11, lines 12 – 14. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by way of the amendment to claim 1.

Regarding the §102(b) rejection, the Examiner alleges that Aoki, in Figs. 1-3, discloses a liquid crystal device comprising a TFT panel, a counter panel and liquid crystal disposed therein.

The Examiner further alleges that Aoki discloses a transparent substrate, a plurality of scanning lines, a plurality of signal lines, a plurality of common lines, an array of pixels and a coupling line, similar to the elements as recited in claim 1.

However, Aoki, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, shows common lines 7 connected to capacitance lines 5 connected through a contact hole H. Therefore, it is clear that the common lines 7 and capacitance lines 5 in Aoki cannot be on the same plane. The present invention connects the common lines and coupling line so that a contact hole is not necessary as is required by Aoki, and that the common lines and coupling line are connected and overlie on the same plane.

Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference, disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. Lindeman Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Company, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458; 221 U.S.P.Q. 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). As Aoki fails to teach the elements of independent claim 1, as discussed above, it is respectfully requested that the §102(b) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn, and that claim 1 be allowed.

Further, new dependent claim 10 has been added, which recites a conductor film having a two layer structure including an Al film and an overlying TiN film, wherein the conductor film, the scanning lines, the common lines and the coupling line are formed on the transparent substrate. Support for the new claim is found on page 10, lines 4-7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by way of the addition of claim 10, and respectfully request allowance of claim 10.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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